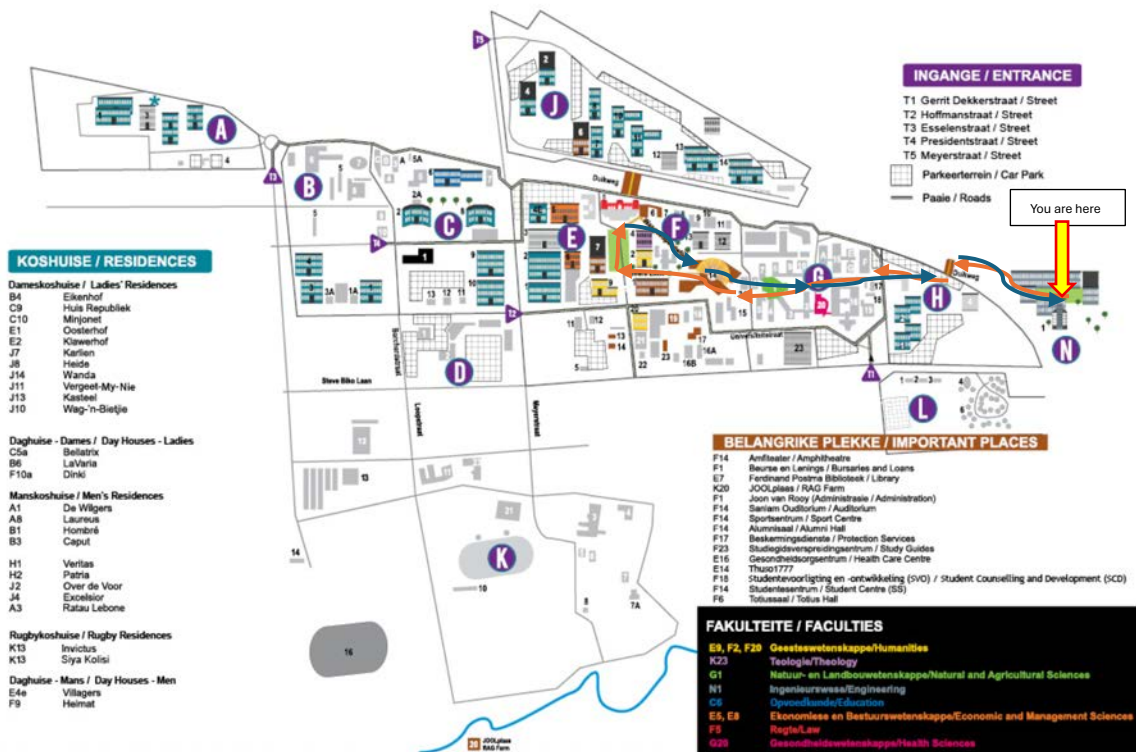


# NWU HEFMA SITE WALKABOUT – 15 October 2025

The walk will start at Engineering building N2A. We will walk onto the main campus via the Subway, past the Construction site of the new medical School as described by Prof Bino. We will enter the main artery of campus. Entering between building G15 and G16, past the Spyder building, past the student centre into Lovers lane towards the Mian building. We will then return via Wasgoed pennetjies past the student Centre all the way back to Engineering.

## NWU, POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS MAP



### Introduction to the Facilities of the NWU:

The history of the North-West University (NWU) Potchefstroom campus buildings reflects its evolution from humble beginnings in the late 19th century into a prominent South African university. Starting with temporary corrugated iron structures, the campus gradually developed an architectural heritage that includes the neo-Cape Dutch, Italian Renaissance, and modernist styles.

The history of NWU Potchefstroom campus building began with the Heimat Building in 1927, the first permanent structure, followed by the Main Building (opened 1931) as the first academic building. Over the decades, significant structures were added, including the [LJ du Plessis Building](#) (1950s) for administration, the [Frans du Toit Building](#) (1965) for arts and sciences, and the [Natural Sciences Complex](#) (completed 1979). Other notable additions include the [Conservatory](#) (1960s) and more recent developments like the [NWU School of Business and Governance facilities](#) in the old Standard Bank building in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Faculty of Engineering was established in 1982, but initially had departments split between the Potchefstroom and Vaal Triangle campuses. In 1992, the decision was made to consolidate all engineering departments onto the Potchefstroom campus.

- **The N1 building** is a part of the modern engineering complex on the North-West University (NWU) Potchefstroom Campus and houses the schools of Electrical, Electronic, and Computer Engineering and Chemical and Minerals Engineering. The building is relatively recent completed in 2010. The N1 building, alongside others like the G15 complex, forms a modern, dedicated campus for the Faculty of Engineering.

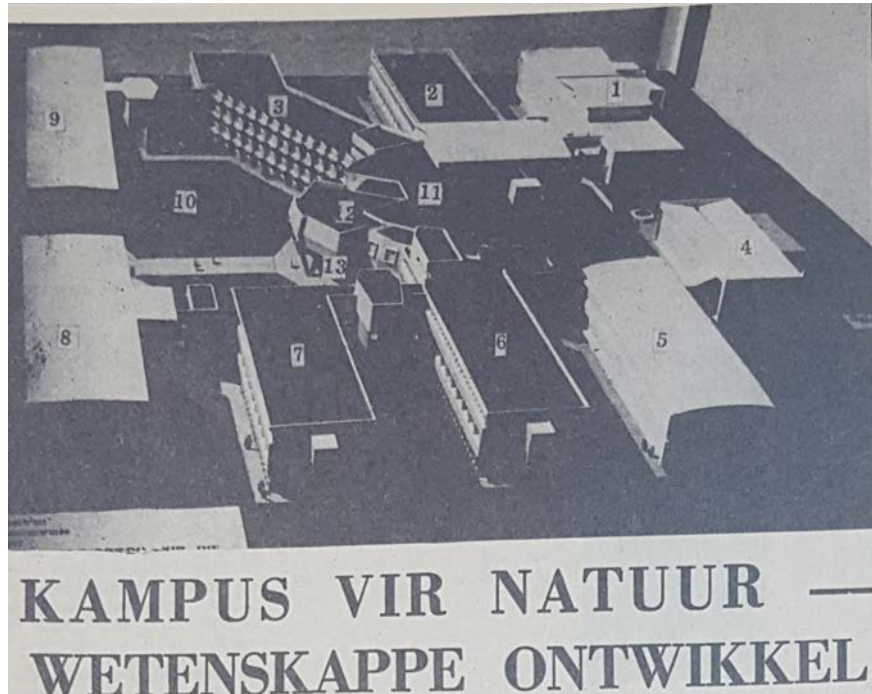


- **The G15 buildings (G15A–G15E)** at the NWU Potchefstroom Campus are part of the modern engineering precinct. They were constructed to house the expanding Faculty of Engineering. The G15 engineering complex was built in the early 1990s following the relocation of the entire Faculty of Engineering to Potchefstroom in 1992. It was also the first building at the NWU to receive a 500kWp solar installation.

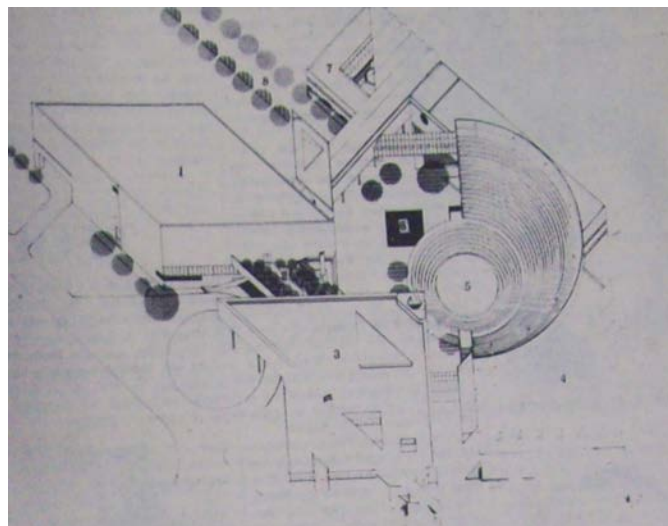


- **Natural Sciences Complex (completed 1979):** G1-G7

A complex designed to house various science and engineering departments, known as the "Spider Building". Due to its spider-like appearance from an aerial view. Architect Nardus Conradie designed the full complex, and construction was completed in 1979.



- **F15 Science Building (1955):** The Physics building, designed by Professor A.L. Meiring, was officially opened on June 11, 1955.  
**1965:** Following a period of growth, former Rector Professor H.J.J. Bingle envisioned a larger complex for the natural sciences that sparked the design of the G1 Spide Complex building.
- **Student Centre and Sanlam Auditorium(SS) (1974):** The Totius Hall (1953) was the second dedicated student hall, but it was eventually replaced by the current Student Centre (known as the "SS"), which opened in 1974. This was part of a larger plan to create a central hub for student life.





Student Centra and Amphie theatre area to support student activities



Entrance to the Auditorium today



Sanlam Auditorium able to seat 1500 people renovate recently

- **Loverslane** is a tree-lined walkway on the North-West University (NWU) Potchefstroom Campus, known as a popular and peaceful student hangout spot. The path travels between the Joon van Rooy Administration Building (F1) and the Natural Sciences buildings (the G1–G7 "Spider complex").

According to NWU's photo archivist, Maryna Rankin, Loverslane was originally intended for botany research and as a decorative feature.

After the extensive building program under Rector Hennie Bingle, which added several classrooms now along the lane, an ad-hoc commission decided to clean up and renovate the area, turning it into the picturesque lane it is today.

The lane has long been a key part of student life, and its informal name, "Loverslane," reflects its reputation as a place for students to socialize between classes and, traditionally, for couples to walk together.

According to a light-hearted campus legend, if a leaf falls on you while walking along "Loverslane", you are destined to meet your varsity sweetheart.



- **Joon van Rooy Administration Building (1981): F1**

The Joon van Rooy Administration Building (F1) at the North-West University (NWU) Potchefstroom campus was inaugurated in 1981, representing a major expansion of the University's administrative capacity. The building is named after Professor Johannes Cornelis van Rooy, a prominent figure in the university's history.



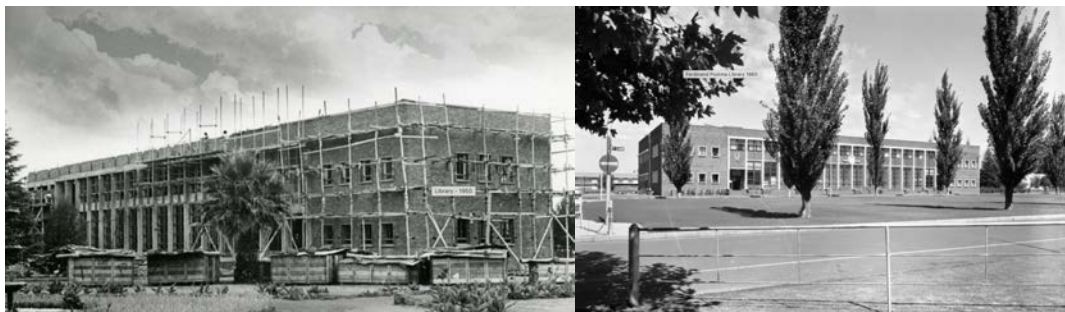
- **Frans du Toit Building (1965):** E9

Built to accommodate the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (now Humanities), with most departments moving from the Main Building. The building was named in honor of Dr. Francois "Frans" Jacobus du Toit, who served as the University's Chancellor from 1954 until his death in 1961. Metal artwork do complement this area now as each campus received one.



- **Ferdinand Postma Library (1952) – E7**

Designed by architects Meiring and Naude, the new, modern library building was constructed with a budget of approximately £65,000. The cornerstone was laid on March 17, 1951, on the same day the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE) became an independent university. The building was commissioned on November 29, 1952.





- **Main Building (1931): F5**

Inaugurated in 1931, the Main Building was the first permanent academic structure on campus. Designed by Henri Louw in the Italian Renaissance style, it initially housed the administration, library, and all academic activities. The building is known for its seven arches, which correspond with the seven candelabra on the university's emblem. In 1949, a fire destroyed the library housed in the Main Building, but the incident led to a national fundraising campaign for a new, dedicated Ferdinand Postma Library E7. The Main Building was subsequently expanded. The building was declared a National Monument in 1984.



The Main Building as it appeared shortly after completion. Photo: NWU

Records, Archives and Museum

1949 Fire during registration

## Building on fire!



Illumination can change the look and feel of a building



- **LJ du Plessis Building (1950s): F4**

Constructed to house the rector and administrative staff. The first Council and Senate meetings were held here in 1957.





- **Heimat Building (1927): F9**

The first permanent brick building was the Heimat residence for male students, designed by renowned architect Gerard Moerdyk in the neo-Cape Dutch style. The name, meaning "home" in German, was chosen by the residents. In 2018, the building was extensively refurbished and now houses NWU Arts

## Heimat Building (F9)

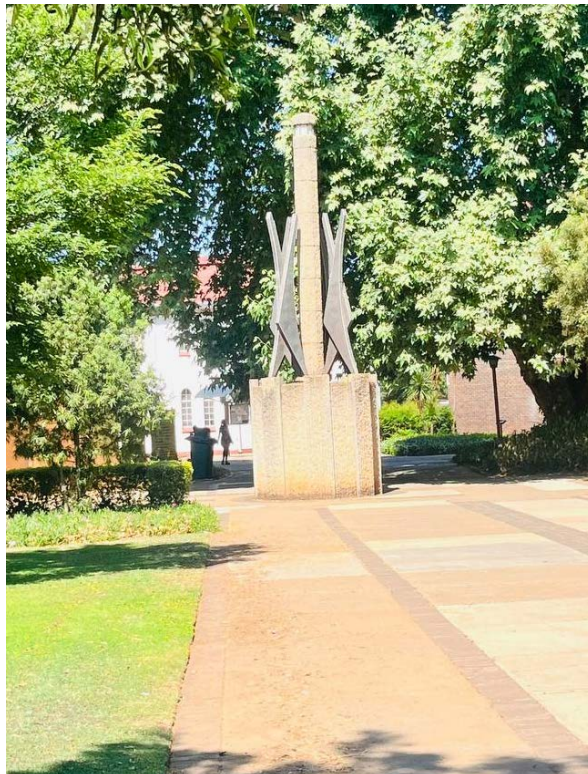


Heimat Building on the Potchefstroom Campus of the NWU



Heimat (early 2000's)

- **"Wasgoedpennetjie"** lane is a popular student pathway at the North-West University (NWU) Potchefstroom Campus, known for hosting events and being a busy thoroughfare. The term "Wasgoedpennetjie" is an Afrikaans word for "clothespin," and its application to the lane is informal and student-driven. It's decorated with the names of previous Student Council members and a landscape of pride as well.



Thank you very much for your participation

From here we can walk back to Engineering campus via the Student Centre, Spyder building and via the subway.